

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Gerhard GEIS

Appl. No: 10/089,381

Confirmation No: 2390

Filed: December 3, 2002

For: LIFTING APPARATUS

Int'l. Appln. No.: PCT/EP01/15297

Int'l. Filing Date: December 22, 2001

Atty. Docket No: 37934-179138

Customer No:



26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Information Disclosure Statement

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 within the time specified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

In order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is notified of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application. One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The relevance of documents A2 and A15 are mentioned in the attached International Search Report.

The relevance of documents A1, A3-A14 and A16-A24 and mentioned in the attached German Office Actions, partial, non-verified translations of which are additionally enclosed.

In addition to the relevance mentioned in the German Office Actions, Applicant offers the following comments:

Document A16 (Sonderdruck aus dhf – deutsche hebe- und födertechnik, Sonderheft zur Hannover-Mess [The special issue for the dhf (Special Edition Magazine for the German Lifting and Conveying Technology; Hannover Exhibition], 1969, pages 181 to 184 (cited as document D1 in each of the German Office Actions) describes diverse container transit cranes for railroad stations. In particular, these cranes can also be designed as telescopic spreaders. Pole-reversible, rotary current squirrel-cage geared motors can be provided for the spreader adjustment and the spreader operation.

Document A17 (GB-Z: The magazine Mechanical Handling, September 1969 Issue, page 139 (cited as document D2 in each of the German Office Actions), describes electrically controlled telescopic spreaders. The telescopic spreader is provided with flipper arms driven with separate motors. The operation and thus also the control of the spreader occurs via a distributor box.

Document A18 (DE-Z: The magazine f+h fördern und heben 37 [Lifting and Conveying 37] (1987), Issue 12, pages 889 to 892 (cited as document D3 in the German Office Action dated Jan. 4, 2002 in application No. 101 01 986.6), describes telescopic spreaders with movably positioned telescopic arms. The telescopic arms move along spring-supported rollers during the operational movement.

Documents A3, A5 and A4, (WO 00/71458 A1, GB 2 031 841 A and DE-AS 1 556 337, respectively (cited as documents D4 - D6 in the German Office Action dated Jan. 4, 2002 in application No. 101 01 986.6) describe corresponding systems with roller guides.

Document A6 (DE 198 50 268 cited as document D7 in the German Office Action dated Jan. 4, 2002 in application No. 101 01 986.6) describes a holding device for a plurality of suction grippers for handling in particular flat objects, which are provided with a main support rod that can be attached to a positioning rod and is provided with several holding rods to which suction grippers are attached. At least the main support rod and the holding rods are made of fiber-reinforced synthetic material. The holding rods and the positioning drive rod are provided at one end with respectively one clamping collar that encircles and clamps in the main support rod in the fully assembled state. The shape of the main support rod here deviates from the round cross-sectional shape and is designed, in particular, as polyhedral pipe or polyhedral rod. The same can also be the case for the holding rods. Components of the holding arrangement are made of fiber-reinforced plastic in place of steel in order to save weight. The handling device is used for handling flat objects, e.g. plates or boxes (next to the last paragraph in column 3.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and therefore no Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

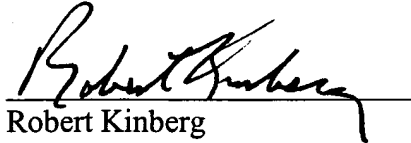
In view of the above, no further translation or statement of relevance is required, and as all requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and all official guide lines pertaining to Information Disclosure Statements have been complied with, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the documents and make them of record.

Please charge any necessary fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this
Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Date:

12/3/02

Respectfully submitted,



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Complete if Known

Filing Date	December 3, 2002
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First Named Inventor	Gerhard GEIS
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Group Art Unit	Unassigned
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Examiner Name	Unassigned
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Sheet	1	of	2
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Attorney Docket Number	37934-179138
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	4,630,855		BJURLING	12/23/86	

[illegible]Date
Considered

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/089,381
Filing Date	December 3, 2002
First Named Inventor	Gerhard GEIS
Group Art Unit	Unassigned
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	37934-179138

Sheet 2 of 2

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	A15	Patent Abstract of Japan, No. 11292455, Vol. 2000, No. 01, January 31, 2000, Miyazawa ISAO, "Container Crane Spreader", October 26, 1999	
	A16	DE-Z: Dipl.-Ing. E. Wild et al., Special Edition Magazine dhf, "German Lifting and Conveying Technology", issued for Hannover Exhibit (1969), pp. 181-184	
	A17	GB-Z: Mechanical Handling, (Sept. 1969), p. 139	
	A18	DE-Z: f + h Dr. F. Mechtold, "Lifting and Conveying 37", (1987), Issue No. 12, pp. 889-892	
	A19	DE-Z: f + h Dr. F. Mechtold, "Lifting and Conveying 38", (1988), Issue No. 1, pp. 9-12	
	A20	DE-Z: Vom Vortrieb zum, "Shop and Factory 129", (1996), 1-2, pp. 41-44	
	A21	DE-Z: Von John Tibbits, Lift Report, Yearly Issue 21, (1995)< Vol. 4, pp. 6, 8, 10 and 11	
	A22	DE-Z: PRITSCHOW et al., "Elektrische Direktantriebe im Werkzeugmaschinenbau", VDI-Z 137, (1995), No. ¼, pp. 76-79	
	A23	DE book: LUEGER, "LUEGER Technical Dictionary", Vol. 15, 4 th Edition, (1971), p. 68	
	A24	DE magazine: "conveying and Lifting 17", (1967), No. 12, p. 687	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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